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SPORTS

Winchester wrestlers enjoy a week of successes in Belmont

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

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In the 113-pound match against host Belmont on Jan. 7, Winchester High girls wrestling captain Maria Baldwin is taking on her Marauders' counterpart Ava Svistunov, a top-ranked grappler in the state, in front of the home team's huge video scoreboard projection. COURTESY PHOTO/LIAM RITTENHOUSE

The Winchester High wrestling team (2-1) recently concluded one of its busiest parts on its regular season schedule, and it all centered around the

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town of Belmont.

On Wednesday, Jan. 7, the Red & Black were at Belmont High for a dual meet, and by the end of the night, they were able to come out on top against the rival Marauders, 53-26.

Girls team captain Maria Baldwin helped lead the way to victory with a big individual win over her Marauders' counterpart Ava Svistunov, who's currently among the state's top-ranked wrestlers.

"Maria hit an impressive standing Jonesy tilt on her way to a pin fall," said the program's assistant Vitaly Napadow. "I'm sure these two will see each other again in the state tournament."

Napadow also singled out the efforts of first-year wrestler Seojun Ryu, who was trailing early on, but fought his way off his back to pin a much bigger Belmont wrestler at 190-pounds.

"On this night, it was great to have close to a full roster on hand. It made all the difference in the world, because we were able to wrestle up to our potential as a team," said Napadow.

On Saturday, Jan. 10, the Winchester wrestlers were back in Belmont again for the Brendan Grant Memorial Tournament that featured separate varsity, JV and girls matches.

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The Marauders played host to 23 teams, some coming from as far away as Rhode Island.

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"We finished third overall, behind only Woburn and Arlington," s
Napadow. "We had standout performances from several wrestlers, with

two of them making it to the finals."

Ilyas Malik came out on top in a deep, competitive 175-pound bracket after pinning his Woburn opponent in the finals.

"[Malik] will see this opponent again on Jan. 21 (7 p.m.) in a Middlesex League matchup at home," said Napadow.

Kai Napadow Baquero came in second in the 120-pound weight class after buzzing through the field of competitors, before falling just short, 4-1, in the finale against Woburn's Alex Orellana, who's ranked fourth in the state. At the end of the day, Orellana was awarded the top prize as the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler.

Both Eddie Donlon, who came in third at 138-pounds, and Luca Kovacev, who at 165-pounds finished fourth, made it to the consolation finals.

At 132-pounds, Leo Gannon picked up three wins to help his teammates finish among the top squads in the tournament. Ian Welsh and Jack Allen were each credited with two wins.

In the JV matches, freshman Ben Gagne was runner-up at 190-pounds. Thomas Blake came in third. Several other JVs also had solid showings, including Jonathan Juarez with five wins, as well as Jack Anderson, Henry Cunnane and Jacob Lieberman with three apiece.

"This was a great experience for all of our competitors," said Napadow.

In the girls tournament, Baldwin finished second, and Ele Siciliano third, while competing in varsity and JV matches.

Coming events

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As a reminder, Senior Night is on Jan. 28. Visiting Lexington will provide the opposition on this date in the new high school gym.

Joe McConnell is a longtime, award-winning sports editor for numerous North Shore publications. He began covering Winchester sports for the News in November 2024.

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Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two

SPORTS

Winchester wrestling enjoys Top 10 finish at state divisional meet; senior captains move on to All-States

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard o weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the Meet at North Andover High School, Mother

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during the regular season, thus making this Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

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Nature gave them a break to rest and recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

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SPORTS

Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

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February 27, 2026

SPORTS

With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoop seniors English, Sarpong, Burbine join Middlesex League elite

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

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February 26, 2026

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and

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his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

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